

9/21/09

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Christine Joyce

From: DoreHunter@aol.com
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2009 10:08 PM
To: Board of Selectmen; Steve Ledoux
Subject: Todays CAC Meeting

Hi Folks,

At today's CAC meeting at the MassHighway office I asked the presiding officer (Steve McLaughlin) if I might have the floor after the usual long discussion of the very slow progress of the Lincoln Crosbys Corner project, and then made "waves".

I proceeded to remind all those present that the CAC was formed 18 years ago when the three towns, Acton, Concord and Lincoln agreed to support each other before MassHighway in regard to Route 2 matters, and to settle disagreements between the Towns off line and outside of the CAC. As far as I am aware that has been the case until recently. Certainly Acton has regularly supported the other Towns.

But now I understand that Concord without consultation with the rest of us, is questioning the need for the Concord Rotary project! I would have thought that whatever reservations they might have about going forward would have been brought to the other two towns in an off line meeting as we earlier agreed. I gave an example or two of how I have personally have constantly supported Concord and Lincoln, and again indicated that all three Towns should return to a consensus mode of operation. I repeated what I think is the heart of the problem with the Rotary. I was subsequently supported in those comments by some of the professionals present

The Concord Selectman who was present left immediately after I finished speaking, saying on the way out that he wished I had spoken with him privately. I had thought about doing so but decided that this CAC issue involved more than he and I. In the Q&A by others that followed, a man in the back of the room who I think is in the Concord Engineer's office stated that it was all rumors. He then seemed to suggest that they think sequencing the Route 2 lights, East of the Rotary, as the appropriate solution, The AECOM representative, Nick Rubino, promptly stated that the sequencing has been studied as part of their work. I pointed out that sequencing lights have often been mentioned over the years and was even once said to have been funded, but nothing came of it.

After the meeting, the MassHighway Projects officer privately stated that he agreed with me, that the point I was making about the Towns working collectively was very important.

Given the very serious findings in regard to the potential need to replace the bridges in the middle of the project to achieve the currently posed configuration, this project may never be built. However, I suggest that any such decision should be made by the three Towns involved, not just one of them.

It may be that my remarks will create a problem between the Concord and Acton Boards of Selectmen. If so, and you feel it appropriate, please feel free to appoint some one else to go to the CAC meetings and follow the project, if you wish to do so. I am willing to continue to follow this project as I have been doing for 18 years on Acton's behalf, but I am not wedded to this activity.

Regards,

Dore' Hunter

9/18/2009

Christine Joyce

From: DoreHunter@aol.com
Sent: Friday, September 18, 2009 11:11 AM
To: Board of Selectmen; Steve Ledoux
Subject: More mundane parts of Yesterday's Route 2 CAC Meeting

Hi Folks,

[This is the second part of my report on the 17 September Route 2 CAC report, you had the first part by my last evening's Email message.]

Once again the functions of the Chair of the meeting defaulted to Steve McLaughlin, MassHighway Projects person, in the absence of the Chairman, David Mohler, Deputy Secretary for Planning.

LINCOLN Project

Dan Boyton (sp?) of Lincoln was seated as Lincoln's new CAC person.

Steve reported that several houses standing within the Lincoln project have been vacated but demolition is not yet underway, some clean up issues need to be addressed.

It was reported that a new project manager has been retained for the Crosbys Corner project in Lincoln who has an excellent reputation and is very familiar with the TIP process. The gentleman is James R. Capaldi, P.E. and he is a member of the Louis Berger Group of Needham. Mr. Capaldi proceeded to give the group a well organized, extensive verbal report on his recent activities. He has in part been directed toward improving the constructability of the Crosby's Corner project, i.e. a more efficient construction process. He intends to make some small but apparently important changes in that project involving walls and water quality issues and expects to have 100% plans by the end of November. It sounded like a change of attitude has occurred. Mr. Capaldi promised the Lincoln folks there would be another meeting with then within 4 weeks concerning landscaping issues.

A question was raised as to the status of the Article 97 legislation. Steve reported that the basic legislative work up was completed some time ago but it has not been submitted to the legislature while the final meets and bounds were somewhat fluid, it being difficult to amend such legislation later. However, it now appears that no additional land will be required for construction and the legislation can be expected to go forward.

The Lincoln audience members who usually have questions at these meetings inquired again about readiness to go on the TIP and Mr. Capaldi conducted a short repeat exercise explaining the process and how it relates to funding. September 2010, about a year from this meeting date, is the critical date for reported being ready to proceed. To achieve that it was stated the project should be ready in July in order to provide time to cure any last moment problems with getting the various approvals, including those from the Towns involved. Mr. Capaldi says he can get it done in time, the most important hurdle is the NOI.

ROUTE 2 ROTARY

[I offered the comments and received the feedback that I reported last night in re cooperation between the three CAC Towns.]

Nick Rubino of AECOM as usual reported on the Rotary project progress. He referred to the recently discovered problem of the bridges, the need to remove them, and the difficulty in doing so, what he describes as "a real problem". He mentioned that, among other organizations, they need to meet with to discuss the bridge problem, even the National Park Service may be included. In the meantime, while some of the project development is on hold, they are continuing to look at temporary rotaries and investigating the underlayment. He noted that the Rotary project is off the long range plan but that MassHighway is still going forward with the development of an EIR, looking toward a MassHighway sign off. Nick also reviewed some of the reasons this project has been developed to its current status, referring to traffic delays, etc. He made reference to 30-40

min delays and observed that his firm has investigated the effect of sequencing the traffic signals east of the Rotary on Route 2.

NEXT CAC MEETING

17 December 2009

Regards,

Dore' Hunter

From: Roland Bartl
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2009 11:11 AM
To: Steve Ledoux
Cc: Manager Department
Subject: FW: Joint MPO letter from Acton, Concord, Lincoln

Steve - do the BoS want to sign on to this letter. See my previous inquiry in this regard, attached.

Roland Bartl, AICP
Planning Director
472 Main Street
Acton, MA 01720
(978) 264-9636

From: Whitehead, Mark [mailto:whiteheadm@lincolntown.org]
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2009 10:50 AM
To: Roland Bartl; rreine@concordma.gov
Cc: sarahselect2004@yahoo.com; Higgins, Timothy S.
Subject: Joint MPO letter from Acton, Concord, Lincoln

Roland, Rich,

Attached is a draft joint letter from the CAC towns in support of Crosby's Corner. I just received notice the MPO has moved the vote up to September 24th so time is of the essence. Please attempt to get the Chair of your BOS to sign off on the letter by Monday if possible.

Mark Whitehead, AICP
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16 Lincoln Road
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781-259-2684
whiteheadm@lincolntown.org

Subject: FW: Crosby's Corner joint letter of support
From: Roland Bartl <rbartl@acton-ma.gov>
Date: Fri, 28 Aug 2009 11:09:06 -0400
To: Steve Ledoux <sledoux@acton-ma.gov>
To: Steve Ledoux <sledoux@acton-ma.gov>
CC: Manager Department <Manager@acton-ma.gov>, Dore Hunter <dhunter@acton-ma.gov>

See request from Lincoln below for Acton to join in a letter of support for the Crosby's Corner project.

In my view, the Crosby's Corner project is a runaway train that is not likely to be stopped, even at the greatly increased price tag of \$72 million plus +/- \$11 million in land acquisitions. Some of both pots has already been spent for design and acquisitions. This is one of the largest financial

commitments for the MPO in their 2010-13 draft TIP and a major reason why there is not enough money for rail trails in Acton and elsewhere. I can't help but side with MAPC's representative on the MPO who argued for a leaner project to just address the safety problems at Crosby's Corner rather than improving to full interstate design standards. He was outvoted. My recommendation would be to remain silent.

Let me know what the Selectmen are leaning towards doing. I gather from the inquiry that Lincoln would like to know Acton's stance before they draft a support letter.

PS: I am copying Dore' Hunter. I assume he is still Acton's rep. on the Route 2 Corridor Advisory Committee. He may have suggestions in this regard, as well.

Roland Bartl, AICP
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From: Whitehead, Mark [mailto:whiteheadm@lincolntown.org]
Sent: Thursday, August 27, 2009 3:41 PM
To: Roland Bartl
Cc: rreine@concordma.gov
Subject: Crosby's Corner joint letter of support

Roland,

Lincoln and Concord are preparing a joint letter of support for the Crosby's Corner project to the MPO regarding the Draft 2010-2013 TIP. As the third member of the CAC communities, we were wondering if Acton would like to join us. I will be drafting the letter with signatures for the Chairs of the Board of Selectmen in each community at the bottom. Please let me know if Acton is interested. The deadline for comment letters is September 22nd.

Thanks

Mark

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